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## THAT FAMOUS "NO-MEDIATOR" LECTURE OF PROF. FRANK STAGG

By I. W. Rogers, Associate Editor

Below is a copy of that portion of a lecture which deals with the "Mediator" idea, delivered by Dr. Frank Stagg, of the New Testament Department of the New Orleans Baptist Seminary during the 1950-51 session. It is taken from a wire recording of the lecture, and was first published in the January, 1952, issue of *The Faith and Southern Baptists*. To this day, to our knowledge, Dr. Stagg has never denied one sentence or word of this lecture. We also have a copy of his lecture on "The Cross—A Rationale", which is almost equally bad. But since he delivered these lectures, he has been promoted, and is still occupying one of the most important teaching positions in this seminary of the Southern Baptist Convention, and he is *being supported out of the Cooperative Program Funds*. We have repeatedly offered to furnish without charge, a copy of the wire recording of this lecture to any editor of a Southern Baptist State Paper, provided he will agree to publish that portion dealing with the "Mediator" idea. But, to this day, not one of them has taken us up on it. But, here is the "Mediator" section of the lecture:

"Now here is some more of the rabbinical exegesis that is a little bit difficult to follow. Now, a Mediator, Paul says, is not of one, but he says God is one. The very fact that you speak of a Mediator, in fine, means that somebody is mediating between two. He means that, though God is one, the law was given to Moses, according to rabbinical teaching, through the angels. So, Moses in a sense, stands between Israel and God, receiving the law; yet there are angels who are used as agencies through whom the law is conveyed to Moses. Now, that was in the rabbinical belief of the first century. But God, on the other hand, deals personally and directly with us in Christ. **There is no mediator there.**

"Strictly speaking, **Christ is not our Mediator.** If we could see that point more clearly we would probably save ourselves from a lot of error, and our Roman Catholic friends would lose a lot of their system. They build heavily on the mediation theory. All right. You have not only Christ as a Mediator, but then you have mediation between us and Christ, between us and Jesus. So, the various saints and Mary herself would be employed to exercise influence over Jesus. Certainly Jesus would pay attention to his mother. And so, if we can appeal to his mother, then his mother can appeal to Jesus, and then Jesus can work on God. All right; it comes out very crude in Roman Catholicism, but no less crudely in a lot of Protestant theology, which represents Jesus as pleading the peace for man in the presence of God. And, therefore, He is pleading man's case before God, and finally He will then prevail on God to change his attitude toward man.

"That locates the problem in God, instead of being in man; and it divides the Godhead. It gives us one of strictly the Mediator. **Strictly speaking, Jesus is not our Mediator.** Even though the term, I believe, once is used; and, certainly it is to be studied in its context. That drives

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# The Faith and Free Press

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"I was constrained to write unto you exhorting you to contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints." Jude 3. (ASV.)

"Stand fast therefore in the Liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage." Galatians 5:1 (A.V.)

a wedge between us and God. You may call him a link; and we have had a lot of atonement doctrine which is just that crude. God's angry. But here comes the Son, and He is sympathetic with the human plight. In a sense, He is a link; but a link is also a wedge. It is something between us. We have something far more precious than that. God was in Christ reconciling the world to himself. God, personally and directly in Jesus, is revealing himself to us, is redeeming us, reclaiming us to himself. And, that thought is the New Testament thought; and it is a far more precious one. And, to see that, will eliminate a lot of error that has crept into both Catholic and non-Catholic theology.

"I conceded that in one case you do have the term, "Mediator" used, and you do have Jesus represented as an Advocate; and, if you build on just those two texts, you could very easily come out with what is very emphatic in Roman theology, and which comes out in a lot of Protestant theology. You get virtually a second God pleading with the first God there for us. If you build on those texts, you usually come out with that. But, over against those two texts you have the whole impact of the New Testament—which gives you something far more precious than that. It would seem to me that, instead of interpreting the whole New Testament in the light of a couple of passages, we should go back and study these two passages in the light of the whole Testament, and be compelled to see this—that you have no division in the Godhead.

"Really, 'Godhead' is not a New Testament word. It is god-hood, the god-ness. We talk about manhood. Manhood is not man-head. So, god-hood, the god-ness. 'Godhead' is a misleading term, and is not in the New Testament. So, we avoid unfortunate division in what is called the 'Godhead'; the unfortunate picture of

one there trying to exercise influence of another in behalf of man. We come back to this which Paul stresses here, which comes out more emphatically, elsewhere; and that is, that God himself, and directly, is our 'Go-el', as the Old Testament puts it. He is our Redeemer, our Saviour, and there is no mediator."

## COMMENTS BY THE EDITOR:

There have been in recent years several charges of modernism within certain Southern Baptist Institutions. Very often these charges either have lacked sufficient documentary proof or have not dealt with clear-cut and basic doctrinal issues. However, the information supplied above by Mr. Rogers certainly seems authentic, and it certainly deals with a matter of crucial significance. If such denial of the mediatorship of Christ cannot arouse Southern Baptists, then one wonders just what kind of information would be asked for in order for Southern Baptists to be aroused.

However radical a professor's conclusions might be, we at least have a right to expect that the "facts" put forth to support his conclusions are real facts. But when Dr. Stagg speaks of how "in one case you do have the term, 'Mediator,'" he is exhibiting what appears to be a characteristic of a number of Southern Baptists of today — namely, an inability to count! There are no less than four distinct references in the New Testament to Christ as "Mediator": I Tim. 2:5, Heb. 8:6, 9:15, 12:24. Of course, these four passages where the term is explicitly mentioned give but faint indication of the extent to which the teaching of Christ as Mediator permeates the New Testament. Dr. Stagg acknowledges that the term "Advocate" suggests the same thought. He could have mentioned a number of other expressions, notably those which describe Christ as our "priest" and as "interceding" for us. It would be no ex-



aggregation to say that to quote all of the Biblical passages which involve the idea of Christ as Mediator would require more space than this whole magazine could provide.

It is but small compensation which Dr. Staggs offers when he shows that he is still willing to allow that Christ is "Saviour"; for the New Testament obviously regards as of tremendous importance the particular manner in which Christ is to be regarded as our Saviour. Indeed, it is the particular manner in which Christ is our Saviour that is stressed in such a notable passage as Heb. 7:25, which declares that Christ "is able . . . to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them."

### LATEST IN THE SUIT

Attorneys for the Southern Baptist Convention filed a motion on Oct. 21 that the suit which had been brought in Guilford Superior Court, N. C., on Aug. 26 (see Oct. issue of *The Faith and Free Press*) be dismissed. In this motion for dismissal it was claimed that the "Southern Baptist Convention has never at any time transacted or done business in the State of North Carolina, nor has it ever been present in the State of North Carolina through officers, agents, or in any other manner," and that it "has never maintained, and does not now maintain, any office or any other facility in North Carolina for the transaction of business..."

The motion for dismissal was heard in the court on Nov. 12. Affidavits by Mr. Porter Routh and Mr. Brooks Hayes were offered as evidence of the claim that the Convention is not doing business in N. C. Results of the hearing are thus described by an Associated Press dispatch of Nov. 13:

"Judge Walter E. Johnston, Jr. has ruled that Guilford Superior Court is without jurisdiction in the case . . .

"The reason, said the Winston-Salem jurist, is that The Southern Baptist Convention is not doing business in North Carolina.

"For that reason he allowed the convention's attorney's motion to dismiss the case . . .

"However, Judge Johnston agreed to examine proposed findings of fact by each side and to find fact. The case will go to the state Supreme Court for argument and a final decision.

"(It was also) . . . indicated yesterday that if the Supreme Court agrees with Judge Johnston's ruling, the matter will be taken through the federal courts."

### WHAT READERS ARE SAYING

From NORTH CAROLINA: "I am a deacon in a Baptist church and I am very much interested in what you are doing and what goes on in the Convention, and I am opposed to a lot of things such as allowing dancing, using mission money to invest in stocks and bonds, and allowing infidels to lecture in Baptist schools".

From MISSOURI: "I have read many articles concerning . . . dancing in some of our colleges. Can you tell me how I can prove this information to the church of which I am pastor, or any other church? It seems that they are, many of them, inclined to follow the association leaders, who are completely sold on anything the Convention does; therefore, they will not believe, seemingly, what a paper outside of the Convention's control says." (Editor's comment: It is no doubt hard for some people outside of N. C. to believe that certain things really are being done by Baptists within this state. This is a rather unusual recommendation from this paper, but I would suggest that you urge these people to subscribe to the *Biblical Recorder* and *Charity and Children*.)

From TEXAS: "I have lost confidence in our Editor. . . . He came out with an editorial, "Get the Bond Business Straight," and completely FORGOT to even mention the allegation made by Mr. Rand about the Home and Foreign Mission Boards each owning thousands of dollars worth of stock in the stock market. If what Mr. Rand says be true, and I shall continue to believe it is, until it is shown to be untrue, what could be more ridiculous than Mr. Feagan's article in the current quarterly? But we will give him the benefit of the doubt and say he does not know of that condition. . . . If the two boards I am talking about did accumulate money to the extent that they had to invest a lot, is it not reasonable to suppose that they are all well fixed for money?"

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## ISRAEL AND PROPHECY

by

Jacob Gartenhaus

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We cannot emphasize enough that we are living in the most momentous times in the history of the world.

At present a "cold war" is being waged between the so-called "East and West" but this "cold war" may at any moment explode into a hot war with all the possibilities of a total catastrophe. We see that the Communistic states of Europe and their heathen allies of Asia and Africa not only outnumber the so-called Christian nations, but are also rapidly gaining ground in technical power as was recently demonstrated by the Russian satellite. These peoples are determined to impose their ideologies upon the rest of the world, and their main efforts are now concentrated in the Middle East.

For the Middle East is the center of it all; and the center of the Middle East is *Israel*.

In the long ago God's prophets foresaw all of this. We read, "For I will gather all nations against Jerusalem to battle; and the city shall be taken, and the houses rifled, and the women ravished; and half of the city shall go forth into captivity, and the residue of the people shall not be cut off from the city." (Zechariah 14:2). The prophet Jeremiah also tells of this attempt to wipe out the Jews. He says, "Alas! for that day is great, so that none is like it: it is even the time of Jacob's trouble, but he shall be saved out of it." (Jeremiah 30:7).

But thank God that it is not only in its troubles that Israel will affect the whole world but also in its ultimate triumphs and final salvation, which will be the sequel of the troubles. The prophet tells us that during that great calamity which will befall them, Israel will acknowledge their national sin and will look upon Him whom they have pierced and mourn for Him as one mourneth for his only son. (Zechariah 12:10). Then it will be that the nation will be spiritually reborn and the Messiah will not only bring peace to Jerusalem but to the whole world.

It is strange, therefore, that in the light of all of this there should not be a deeper concern for the "peace of Jerusalem." Even preachers of the Gospel who are ready to sacrifice their very lives in defense of the truth and break fellowship with other preachers of the Gospel who do not pronounce the word "Shiboleth" as they do, will not contribute a dime for the evangelization of the Lord's own brethren! One such pastor provoked us to ask him the following question, "How can any church claim to be a New Testament church and leave the Jew out of its mission program? I wonder how, some day, good men like yourself, upon meeting the Lord face to face, will answer His question, 'What have you done for my own beloved people?'" "And what can we do", one might ask, "if everything is to happen as predicted?" The answer is, we cannot alter anything that is predestined; but what we can and must do is to obey the Lord's command to preach the Gospel to every creature, which includes the Jew.

We have received a copy of a resolution passed by the First Baptist Church, Newberry, S. C., which, along with a suggestion of withdrawal from the S. B. C. because of the integration matter, contained the following:

"That due to the record vote of Representative Brooks Hayes in the United States House of Representatives concerning issues involving this problem and due to the fact that he has recently been elected President of the Southern Baptist Convention that we request he advise the First Baptist Church of Newberry, South Carolina, his view of the following matters:

- " a. Do you concur in the report of the Christian Life Commission of which you are chairman?
- " b. Do you believe in accepting gifts from organizations which follow Communistic views such as the Fund for the Republic for the sole use to support interracial programs to ease racial tensions North and South?
- "c. Do you advocate the views of the A. D. A.?
- " d. Do you believe in the mixing of the races in the local churches?"



The North Carolina Baptist State Convention had its annual session in Raleigh, Nov. 19-21.

Since the Convention came to an end just before this paper was ready to go to press, we are unable to report on it in this issue. However, next month's issue will be almost completely devoted to a discussion of this meeting.

We will only say at present that this meeting was probably the stormiest in the Convention's 127 year history. For the kind of report that you are not likely to get from any other publication, be sure to see our next month's issue!

**THIS IS A "FREE PRESS" . . . .** While this paper has taken a very critical attitude towards many policies of the Southern Baptist Convention and its related organizations, we have kept our pages open for discussion from the other side. We have even printed material by a guest-writer defending N. C. Baptist state secretary, Dr. M. A. Huggins, with whom we have differed sharply in editorial statements.

The editor of this paper would not even want to commit himself to everything that the associate editor says; nor would we have our readers understand that the associate editor is to be understood as committing himself to everything said by the editor. We welcome for our "readers column" letters that are unfavorable and we welcome articles unfavorable to our position. We want always to keep this a **FREE PRESS**.

## ROGERS REFLECTIONS

By I. W. Rogers, Associate Editor,

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**Billy Graham** has probably helped more young preachers to become compromisers with the devil than any other man, living or dead.

**American Bible Society in the National Council of Churches.** The American Bible Society, to which Southern Baptists contribute every year, and which is highly commended by both the Southern Baptist Convention and the state conventions, is a member of the National Council of Churches. I have a letter from Dr. Samuel McRea Cavert, who was at that time General Secretary of the National Council of Churches, in which he says that the constitution of the National Council does not permit organizations like the American Bible Society to become regular members of the National Council of Churches. But, he continued: "It is possible for an organization like the American Bible Society to become a consultative member of the National Council of Churches, and the American Bible Society has accepted an invitation to enter into this relationship. This relationship provides for a non-voting representative of the American Bible Society to serve in the General Assembly and the General Board."

The fact is the American Bible Society is controlled by men and women whose denominations help make up the National Council of Churches. Also, the American Bible Society is now publishing the American Standard Version, and has been for several years — and with comments, in spite of the fact that they have often proclaimed as their motto: "Publishing the Scriptures in many languages without comment."

But thousands of Southern Baptist churches contribute every year to the support of the American Bible Society, because they are urged to do so by the Southern Baptist Convention and the different state conventions.

**Designations score again.** In almost every report of the amount of gifts sent through the Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention, for the past several years, the amount contributed to designated objects increased faster, percentage-wise, than gifts to the Coopera-

tive Program. For the first nine months of this year, Cooperative Program gifts increased 6.8 per cent and designated gifts increased 11.3 per cent over the same period the year before. This means that more and more people are getting their eyes open regarding the devilry in the Cooperative Program.

**Virginia Baptists "designate".** In the annual report for 1956-57 of the Baptist General Association of Virginia, gifts to the Cooperative Program **decreased** more than \$52,000. But designated gifts **increased** more than \$25,000.

**According to Plan.** The following is quoted from a speech of Congressman Abernathy of Mississippi in the *Congressional Record* of June 7, 1957:

"This civil-rights business is all according to a studied and well-defined plan. It may be news to some of you, but the course of the advocates of this legislation was carefully planned and outlined more than 45 years ago. Israel Cohen, a leading Communist in England, in his *A Racial Program For The Twentieth Century*, wrote in 1912 the following:

We must realize that our party's most powerful weapon is racial tension. By propounding into the consciousness of the dark races that for centuries they have been oppressed by the whites, we can mould them to the problem of the Communist Party. In America we will aim for subtle victory. While inflaming the Negro minority against the whites, we will endeavor to instill in the whites a guilt complex for their exploitation of the Negroes. We will aid the Negroes to rise in prominence in every walk of life, in the professions and in the world of sports and entertainment. With this prestige, the Negro will be able to intermarry with the whites and begin a process which will deliver America to our cause.

**One good decision.** During the last two or three years, the U. S. Supreme Court has made so many decisions that are contrary to our American way of life that it has fallen to a new low in the estimation of American citizens. But the court recently handed down a decision with which every right-thinking American will agree. In the case of *Alberts vs.*



California and Roth vs. United States, the court ruled that the federal law barring obscene books from the mails is constitutional and that a state has the right to seize and destroy volumes that it regards as obscene. Since then it has denied petitions for a rehearing.

**Proportionate.** Dr. E. M. Jellinek, of the United Nations World Health Organization, and former Director of the Yale Center of Alcohol Studies, recently made the following startling statement:

"The death rate, crime rate, and accident rate in a given community varies according to the alcohol consumption; and when alcoholism decreases, so do the death, crime and accident rates; and relaxation of restrictions on alcohol is followed by a rise in commitments to asylums, hospitalization and delinquency."

**Remarkable growth.** During the fiscal year ending Sept. 30, the Highland Park Baptist Church, Chattanooga, Tenn., had 1927 additions to its membership. 1150 of these were by baptism. Dr. Lee Roberson is the pastor. This great church sponsors 33 missions in and around Chattanooga, the Union Gospel Mission in downtown Chattanooga, and 125 missionaries on foreign fields. A late report on the present size of the membership is not available, but it is probably around 15,000. So far as our knowledge goes, this is the largest white Baptist church in the world.

**Greatest year.** The following is a paragraph of a letter from evangelist J. H. Melton, 1340 Charwick Circle, Memphis 14, Tenn.:

"This has been the greatest year of my ministry. I have had such great joy in my soul in taking an independent, fundamental, pre-millennial stand. This is my 21st meeting of the year. I will have four other meetings. The Lord is wonderfully good."

**After their scalp.** The Trenton Baptist Association, composed of 23 Baptist

churches in Ouachita parish, Louisiana, passed resolutions in their recent annual meeting demanding the discard of the Christian Life Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention, on account of the stand of the Commission in favor of integration.

**"Beerball."** Mrs. Glenn G. Hayes, president of the National W. C. T. U. has charged that major club owners of the "once great American sport of baseball are 'asking' that it be renamed 'Beerball'". The games are largely sponsored by "beer-casts".

### *The World Growing More Heathen.*

The world is rapidly growing more heathen every day. Since 1900 the population of the world has increased by more than 1.1 billion. But the entire number of professing Christians in the world at the present time is approximately 800 million. And, what is worse, most of those who profess to be Christians have never been taught the way of salvation, and do not know Christ as their Saviour.

**Effect of just one ounce.** Herman A. Heise, Chairman of the American Medical Association's medico-legal subcommittee on chemical tests for intoxication, has reported that having about one ounce of alcohol in the body increases the chances of having an automobile accident by 1,000 per cent.

**RSV sales.** According to the *National Council Outlook*, sales of the RSV Bibles during the first five years reached a total of more than five million. This is a big circulation. But, 19 denominations are using the RSV in their Sunday School literature, and 13 others are using it in parallel columns with the King James Version. These 34 denominations have a total membership of 34 million, and a Sunday School enrollment of 20 million. It would seem from these facts, in addition to all the high-powered advertising the RSV received, the circulation would have reached a much higher figure than five million. A representative of the Oxford University Press told me that his one company sold more King James Version Bibles than were sold of the RSV in the same period of time. In all, 15 million Bibles were sold in America in 1956, according to *Newsweek*. The KJ Version is not a perfect translation, but it is here to stay for a long time to come.

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**Another Cooperative Program.** The Baptist Missionary Association of Texas, an affiliate of the North American Baptist Association, has adopted what they call the "United Emphasis", which is identical in principle with the Cooperative Program of the Southern Baptist Convention. These brethren are strong on claiming to do things "according to the Scriptures"; but, where did they find this "United Emphasis" in the Scriptures?

**TV Training.** Two boys in Arlington, Va., Frank Dodd 13, and James Dodd 11, shot their father to death while he was watching television; then, they dragged his body out to a tool shed and locked the body inside. After several weeks, the body was found. The boys told police in their confession that they were mad at their father and had learned on television "how you kill people and dispose of the body." This is the kind of education a large percent of American children are getting. Is it any wonder that juvenile delinquency is increasing at an alarming rate?

**Excommunicated.** On Oct. 10, the Miller Road Baptist Church, Garland, Texas, Brother Jack Hyles, Pastor, and the Open Door Baptist Church, Brother Joe Boyd, Pastor, of Dallas, were excluded from the Dallas County Baptist Association. The charges against them were, they did not employ the "regular policy" in mission donations, and that they did not use "common sense" in missions donations. The facts are: (1) these churches asked the Lord to tell them where to put their mission offerings, and did not consult denominational headquarters about it, and (2) the Lord was so wonderfully blessing them that the green-eyed monster, jealousy, got the best of some of the "me-too" leaders in the association. These two things together are what put them out of the association. The Miller Road Church led the Southern Baptist Convention in baptisms in 1956 with a total of 704, and may have led the convention again in 1957, with a total of 625. This church raised \$27,000 in one offering the Sunday before they were excluded. During November they entered their new church auditorium, which seats 2200 people. My personal opinion is that the action of the association in excluding them will prove to be one of the greatest blessings these churches ever received.

## BOOK REVIEWS

*A Bride for His Son.* By Dr. (M. D.) T. A. Lambie, Loizeaux Brothers, \$2.50.

Here is a delightful book about the things and places and people in Bible Lands. The author was, for many years, a medical missionary in Ethiopia. But, he came back to America in 1942, broken in health. His health was, in a measure, restored and he went to Palestine, and he established the Berachah sanatorium for tuberculosis patients, ten miles south of Bethlehem. He traveled much in Palestine and acquired a wide range of knowledge of the people, places and things in the land of our Lord. The 21 chapters in the book throw light on many passages of Scripture. Here is one illustration: He begins his chapter on "The Fig Tree" with the following paragraph:

"We had our first ripe figs today, Aug. 8th — I mean of the main crop of figs. Earlier we did have some of the early crop of figs which our Lord sought on the way to Jerusalem. The early crop of figs are green, but quite sweet, although not plentiful. The main crop comes in the middle of summer, and what a treat they are!"

Further on he tells us that unless the fig-tree in Palestine bears an early crop, it will not bear any figs that year.

I heartily commend this book to our readers. (I.W.R.)

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*Right or Wrong?* By T. B. Maston, Broadman Press, \$2.00.

The author is professor of social ethics in Southwestern Seminary, Fort Worth. The following subscript to the title indicates the purpose of the book: "A guide for young people and their leaders in discovering principles of Christian conduct." His discussion is largely under two heads — Principles and Problems. His discussion of the principles of conduct is unexcelled, to our knowledge. Under problems he discusses cheating, gambling, movies, Sunday observance, smoking, drinking, dancing, petting, popularity, and victory over temptation. His discussion of these problems is purely from the Christian point of view, and what he says is good advice to both young and old. Each time he tells why he takes the position he does.

There is one "fly in the ointment" of this otherwise excellent book: He does not quote many scriptures, but most of the time, when he does, he quotes the Revised Standard Version. What a pity! Also, it does seem that under "Movies" he should have discussed television, which brings movies into the living-rooms of the people. (I.W.R.)